

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2020

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Select Board was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Members participated remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Members present were Chairperson Linda Alexson, Brenda Turner, Charlie Surpitski, Wayne Castonguay, Nishan Mootafian, Sandi Corning and Peter Soffron. Also present, Chief Nikas Shellfish Constable LaPreste, and Recording Secretary Rodgers. This meeting was video recorded by ICAM.

Citizen's Queries: There were none.

Constables report:

Constable LaPreste reported Boat House Gate is available until Memorial Day to use when necessary. The definition of "necessary" would be due to ice or diminishing daylight. He noted that TTOR has always been accommodating. He has a key and he notifies TTOR and places it on the hot line recording. Discussion took place regarding the question if it is limited for commercial use or can recreational permit holders use it. Constable LaPreste indicated that rarely has anyone with a recreational permit used Boat House Gate and noted that parking is limited.

Constable LaPreste reported rule changes starting October 1st - Oyster season opens; commercial clammers can walk out to N4 and digging is allowed on Sundays.

Constable LaPreste reported 18,600 pounds of green crabs were trapped. \$7,440 remains out of \$27,000 and remaining funds will be held to start trapping next April.

Proposed revisions to Shellfish Regulations

Ms. Alexson reviewed and read the regulations with revisions previously discussed. Clarifications were made for non-resident Massachusetts Veterans: permits for over age 70 will be the same fee as for Ipswich residents over age 70. Over-70 permits for both residents and non-resident Massachusetts Veterans would be based on a calendar year and renew annually.

Terminology such as "Board of Selectmen" was changed to "Select Board" throughout the regulations.

After a discussion regarding fees,

MOTION:

Mr. Castonguay moved to recommend to the Select Board to that the standard \$10 Enhancement Fund fee applies to over 70 permits. Mr. Soffron seconded and the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

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Discussion carried on; under section 6 Non-Resident Massachusetts Veterans. Ms. Turner suggested deleting the use of (Form DD-214) as a form of identification, noting the value of this document makes it impractical to use as identification.

Section 11 will read Shellfish Constables and/or Ipswich Police Officers shall have authority.

Mr. Castonguay initiated discussion concerning the European Oyster, which has really taken over. In the regulations, five species of shellfish are listed and the European Oyster is not one of them. The regulations were cited and it does not differentiate among the 30 pieces oysters. The Constable noted that 80% of the oyster population is the European species.

MOTION: Mr. Mootafian moved to recommend to the Select Board the proposed revisions as discussed and to schedule two public hearings before adoption. Mr. Castonguay seconded, the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Harbor Management Plan Update

Mr. Soffron and Mr. Castonguay updated the Committee on the progress of the harbor management plan. Mr. Soffron expects to finish this week, he will forward the draft plan to committee members.

Old Business

Ms. Alexson initiated discussion concern a request from Brenden Doyle of the Rowley aquaculture farm to be associated with Ipswich's program for trapping green crabs. Discussion took place and members concurred to encourage surrounding towns to start their own programs, but Ipswich would maintain its own program. With regards to their request to providing a location in Ipswich for overwintering their stock, Rowley officials have approved a location in the bay, between Rowley and Plum Island. Members felt this was a better location than anywhere in Ipswich.

► Approval of minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Castonguay moved to approve the June 2, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Turner seconded, the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

MOTION: Mr. Castonguay moved to approve the June 30, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Mootafian seconded, the motion passed by roll call vote with Mr. Soffron abstaining

MOTION: Mr. Castonguay moved to approve the August 4, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Turner seconded, the motion passed by roll call vote, with Mr. Mootafian and Mr. Surpitski abstaining.

► Next Meeting –Tuesday October 6, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved on October 6, 2020.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law' the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting; the members present or absent; the findings made and actions taken. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion on any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.

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